

## **MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON 27<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2008 AT SANDYACRES SPORTS GROUND**

### **PRESENT:**

There were 28 members present.

### **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:**

Apologies were received from Eddie, Izzy Sage and Kevan James.

### **LAST YEARS MINUTES:**

These were accepted being proposed by Phil Hamilton and seconded by Jim Jolly and accepted unanimously.

### **MATTERS ARISING FROM LAST YEARS MINUTES:**

None.

### **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:**

The chairman reported that this had been his third year in office and because of other commitments was now resigning from the position. It had been a strong year for the club in every way, led by a hardworking committee. On the financial side there had been effective control and the bank balance was now very robust thanks largely to the 10k race. Allan had done an excellent job as Race Director and both financially and in organisation there had been no problems and the runners were very appreciative on the day. Members had rallied round better this year which made things a little easier for Allan in the preparatory administration and on the day. The number of club members had stayed at 60 – 70, a healthy level. The Results Secretary had had a difficult year as members are still reluctant to send in their results which means little news for the article in the local paper as well as assessments for the trophies at the end of the year.

Health and safety was an issue we cannot ignore and it was important we do not take any risks both individually and as a club. We need to ensure any necessary risk assessments are in place. The club had purchased some small tags which can be attached to a shoelace or similar on which one can put emergency telephone numbers, any significant medical facts etc. These are available free from Mollie and we would request that all runners use these.

Thanks to Peter Rush for his efforts in keeping the website up to date. We would ask members to send him information to fill out the personal profiles.

In conclusion the club was wished every success for the forthcoming year.

### **TREASURERS REPORT:**

The treasurer reported another very successful financial year which is detailed on the circulated Balance Sheet and Income and Expenditure Report.

On the income side the subscriptions equated to 64 members. The commission relates to a small payment on anything purchased on Amazon via the website. The donations and grants were some shirts 'bequeathed' to us from Geoff Juster. The 'vests' item refers to the buy and selling (at cost) of club running vests.

In the Sporting section there was a profit of £2,701 on the club 10k race. The stadium never invoiced us for the hire for the 'Club Mile'. The Presentation evening represents a cost particularly for medals, engraving and subsidy.

On expenditure the highest outlay is the hire of the clubhouse facilities, which we believe is good value for money. We have officially become affiliated to the LDWA and details are available from the secretary if you would like a handbook or any details.

This report shows a profit of £1,890.18 on trading.

With the balance sheet at the start of the year our assets were £5,961.59 and at the end £8,049.79.

From the floor Mick James enquired why we were paying fees to several different organisations. It was explained that the Athletics administration in the UK was in a state of flux and it was considered prudent to continue affiliations to all (the sums are not large) until the situation is finalised. Also it was noted cash had not been transferred to a high interest account as queried at last years meeting. The treasurer said this would be given a high priority.

Robert Wilson was thanked for checking the accounts.

The accounts were proposed by Alan Green and seconded by Mick James and passed unanimously.

### **LADIES CAPTAIN REPORT:**

As usual we have seen some excellent performances, PB's and several new members during the year.

We have had 5 new members and 3 have left for a variety of reasons.

In the interclub relays we had three teams out at all events with four at Folkestone. The ladies vet team was most successful in finishing in third place.

In the London Marathon we had 5 lady runners Gill was first home in 3-38-03, followed by Alison in 4-33-42, Clare in 4-37, Nina (with broken foot) in 4-54-26 and Ann (10<sup>th</sup> time) in 5-03-04.

Later in the year at the Beachy Head Marathon, again Gill was first in 4hrs-09min followed by Nina in 5-25, Ann in 5-31, Clare in 5-50 and Alison in 6-58.

Gill has had a very successful year being first lady home in the Steyning Stinger, the Stelling Minnis 10k and first vet in the Fowlmead Country Park 10k. Also she has made many appearances over the on a variety of terrains and distances.

The ladies team was first at Stelling Minnis and third in the Lydd ½ marathon.

Alison starred in the Folkestone Race for Life when she finished 8<sup>th</sup> out of 3,500 runners.

Clare won her first prize finishing first vet in the Mount Ephraim 10k and also had a PB in the Harvel 5 miles.

Marion had a PB in The Great North Run and another at 10k in the Givaudan race.

Also at the Givaudan Jo and Alex had PBs.

Lynne has had three PBs at 5k, 10 miles and 1/2m distances during the year.

Sonja, despite her dreadful house, has continued to run and completed the Milan Marathon in a PB.

Alison and Desiree both ran PBs in our Marshall's race.

Josie Wells ran a PB in the Totally Wild 10k.

There have been many other good performances with Desiree running her first 1/2M and Lynn Beaumont, Lynne Oliver, Zara and Clare complete the difficult off-road Grim 8.

Our new members also ran with Jade and Alison Steed in the Folkestone 10, Josie in the Stelling Minnis 10k, Judy in the Canterbury 10, Jo Fabian in the Totally Wild 10k and Lynn Beaumont in the Folkestone 1/2M.

Liz and Alison Steed continue to work hard at Triathlons and this year completed a full Ironman finishing in 15hrs- 55min-16sec and 16-51-55 respectively – a considerable achievement.

We wish Gill, Liz and Nina the best for the London Marathon.

In conclusion, you are aware I am standing down after 15 years as Ladies Captain and would thank all members for their help and support during those years.

### **MEN'S CAPTAIN REPORT:**

It has been a challenging year for the men's section with Andy Phillips, Mick James, Declan, big Rob, and Adam Hume having long term injuries. Also Wayne went on walkabouts and Ian Cox was tempted to move to Belgium. Tom Pope has completed his work contract and has returned to Devon.

Steve Hickman has been his usual active self. He has run distances from 5k to 85 miles including 5 marathons.

Kevan James has run well with a 1-19 at Hastings and 3 -03 at the Kent Coastal Marathon (with Dan and Rob close behind). Rob also ran an excellent 10miles PB in 58.53 at Sidcup.

Steve and I ran the Canterbury 50 (actually 54.2) apart from the joy of finishing the welcoming pub at the end made it all worthwhile. A race to be recommended.

In the relays we managed a second place in the vets with our senior team also putting in some good times.

Getting a team together for Cross-country has been a problem and we were not the only club not fielding full teams.

It was good to see more members out helping the 'regulars' for our 10k race which was a personal success for Allan.

For next year several committee members are not re-standing and we need to fill these positions to continue the club activities.

On a lighter note my move up to 10 miles has meant the retirement of my daughter from Buggy racing – this will please Alison but let her be warned the new lighter weight version has been designed and built.

### **ELECTION OF VICE-PRESIDENT:**

The re-election Of Ernie Warren as Vice-President was proposed by the committee and agreed unanimously.

### **ELECTION OF NEW COMMITTEE:**

Of the current committee the Chairman, Secretary, Ladies Captain and Social Secretary were not standing for the forthcoming year. The Fixtures Secretary was also vacant. No nominations had been received and nominations were requested from the floor.

For Ladies Captain, Alison Draper was proposed by Gill and seconded by Nina.

For Fixtures Secretary, Nina Davies was proposed by Alison and seconded by Gill.

For Chairman, Mick James was proposed by Steve Hickman and seconded by Phil.

No nominations were received for Secretary; Malcolm agreed to continue in the office until a substitute could be found.

The continuing members were and above were jointly proposed by Phil and seconded by Mick James and agreed unanimously.

### **CLUB 10K RACE REVIEW:**

Allan, as Race Director, presented a review of the 2007 club race.

There had been much more support from members this year. The principal problems of the previous year, marshals and weather, had not occurred. On parking provision had been made nearby for use of a business car park which thankfully we had not had to use. Also a quantity of straw bales was used to direct the traffic more efficiently. In Phil's absence Mick James had done the computer database work. Alison had managed to get the printing done at her employers. Two thirds of the entries now come in via the intranet and Mollie looked after all the entries. Entry was closed prior to race day and this lessened the load on the actual day. Luckily the weather was good and with Ernie rolling the area there were no traffic problems. The road closure was now free avoiding a bill for £1200 as a result of an alternative provision by the council.

A provisional date for next years race was 15<sup>th</sup> February although Allan strongly recommended a change to May. The break even entry level was now 250 runners so there was some latitude.

Allan was standing down as director having done it for the last three years and a new Director was needed.

### **UKA RULE CHANGES:**

A note outlining the changes by the UKA and English Athletics regarding membership, club affiliation and race administration was handed out.

The new system was that the club would be affiliated at a reduced fee but individual members had to provide personal data to English Athletics for their new database at a fee of £5 for competitors but free to non-competitors who would be classed as volunteers. It was agreed that the club would pay this fee for members but this would be reviewed on a year by year basis. A form would be provided to all members on renewal of their club membership for completion and return. This would agree to their details being passed to English Athletics. Competitors would need to do this to continue to get reduced entry fees to races.

On race administration there was a race fee to be paid (about £260) and the £2 minimum differential was to stay but this would be retained by the club. Rough calculations indicated there would be a net monetary gain to our club.

### **CLUB VISIT TO LE TOUQUET:**

It had been suggested that a trip be organised to take part in the Le Touquet race. This was generally approved by the floor and the committee agreed to investigate.

Members were reminded that annual fees were due 1<sup>st</sup> April. Members were also requested to complete their 'Club Person of the Year' nomination and also encouraged to come to the presentation Dinner on 26<sup>th</sup> May.

The meeting closed at 10.15pm.

M E Dunn  
Hon. Sec.